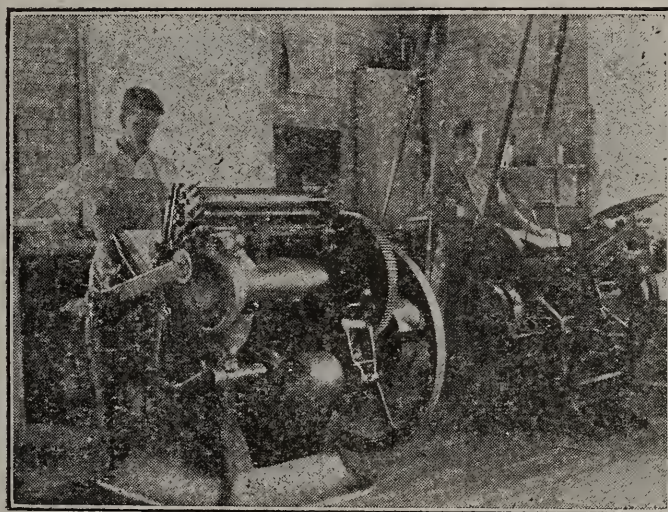


THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

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At Work in the Printing Office

History of Our Printing Office

Note: This article is reprinted in part from "The National Printing Education Journal," a Michigan publication.

It was on May 25, 1880 that a small hand printing press and a half a dozen fonts of type were brought to the School and the beginnings of not only our printing department, but also of all elementary school printing courses started. Bertrand B. Keyes was the first student printer. He received his instruction from Leo P. Lewis, son of a Boston minister. The equipment cost \$16.02 and young Keyes promptly brought a one-half interest. In a few months he earned enough to purchase the

remaining half. Most of his work consisted of printing cards, 25 for ten cents.

From the very beginning the printing press was most surely a tremendous source of interest. The first printing press in British North America, set up in Cambridge, Mass. in 1638, could hardly have excited more interest among the inhabitants of the Massachusetts Bay Colony than did the little amateur printing press on Thompson's Island to the inhabitants thereof 242 years later. The output of the latter press, especially the visiting cards, ornamented as was the fashion in those days with gilt and beveled edges and with

turned corners, was considered wonderfully fine.

A detailed description of the equipment used is of interest. It consisted of a self-inking hand-power press, made by Golding & Co., and called "The Official." The fonts of type were: Double English, Old English, Double Pica Payson Script, Long Primer Light Face Gothic Italic, Brevier Modern Roman, Brevier Modern Roman Italic, and Nonpareil Light Face Gothic. The press was sold by the original owner, but eventually was returned to the School, where printers and printing students today take a keen delight in examining it. It is mounted on a stand in the present-day printing office and is complete with chase and rollers.

The idea of a printing press received the hearty endorsement of the administration of the School, and a generous offer was made by Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, a member of the Board of Trustees. This consisted of a fully equipped printing office so that practical instruction in the trade could be given.

Teachers of printing were unknown in those days insofar as they were trained in any definite educational method. Mr. Bowditch, the donor of the equipment, turned to his own printer with the problem of securing a man willing to organize a course of instruction and teach the art. George T. Barker Jr., who learned his trade at the Riverside Press was engaged.

The first work done in the shop consisted of jobs for the school office. Envelopes, stationery and office forms were the main output of the press. Later a real large job was undertaken, that of publishing a booklet containing among other things the names of all the boys who had been students at the school. This work took several months and was done on a quarter medium Universal, operated by foot power.

The first students in the printing office surely "went places" upon reaching maturity. Bertrand B. Keyes, the first printer became an excellent musician and toured this country and England as a cornet soloist. Leo R. Lewis, his printing teacher, became head of the music department of Tufts College. Charles W. Wilson and Clarence A. Knowlton became associated with the Riverside Press. George W. Russell earned funds at the trade in order to fit himself for the ministry and is now a Baptist preacher in Vermont. Last, but by no means least, William Alcott, has had a long and distinguished career as a Boston journalist having been City Editor of the "Globe" and is at present Librarian of that great daily.

Today, in 1947, the printing office is a well established unit of the School's educational plan. The course is of such value that the graduates of the school who have fitted themselves for the printing trade have no difficulty in finding employment in the work. Now in its 67th year, the course has proven time and again the value of printing training designed purely for practical instruction in the great art.

Meals at Our School

We have ice cream two times a week Thursday, and Sunday. Often we have baked chicken on those days, too, grown right here on the farm. The ice cream also is made here.

For breakfast we have a cereal and soft boiled eggs most of the time.

The main meal is at noon. We have milk two times a day.

The food is good. A great deal of the food is produced right here on the island. That is one reason why it is so good.

Lewis A. Hester

Office Work

I am the office boy and every day I report there after breakfast. My job is to take messages around the campus to the instructors and boys, to help in the stock-room, to keep the offices clean and other duties. I have learned to use the files and how to run the adding machine. I have not been office boy very long but I can see that there are many things to learn. I hope I have the job for a long time.

Lawrence J. McManus

Our Class Club

The sophomore class has a class club and a staff of officers has recently been elected. These officers conduct our club meetings and decide the type of program to be given during the school year. They also discuss the many class problems as they arise.

The officers were chosen in a careful and thoughtful manner. They are:

Paul W. Horton, President
 Richard E. McPhee, Vice President
 Burleigh M. Pratt, Secretary
 J. Sheridan Higgins, Treasurer
 Kenneth W. Duquet, Ch. Ent. Com.
 Burleigh M. Pratt

Swimming

One of the sports which all the boys like is swimming. We go swimming two or three times every day. I always liked the water but it was not until this summer that I learned to swim. First I practiced until I could dive pretty well. I realize how much fun I've missed in not being able to swim before this and I advise any who can't, to learn to swim.

Norman F. Dewing

The Band

One year ago I took clarinet lessons and soon was playing easy music with the

band. I am surprised how much one can learn in a year. When I was in the band last year we went on some fine trips. First we went to Faneuil Hall where we played a concert for our parents and friends. Two weeks later we played in a music festival in Medford and two weeks after that we went to Portsmouth for the New England School Music Festival. Over the Fourth of July holiday the band went to Wolfeboro, N. H. for a wonderful four day trip. We had a great time.

Learning music the way the boys do here is a great privilege.

Richard A. Gavin

Farm Work

The farm crew, like most of the other department workers, is divided in two groups, one working in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The morning crew first cleans the barns and then does work as necessity demands. Lately we finished harvesting silage. This is a long but interesting job. The tall silage corn is cut and piled. Then it is hauled to the silo on a truck. It is then cut into small pieces by an International Harvester Corn Cutter and blown to the top of the silo where it falls into the silo. The silo is filled now and we have just about enough of this important feed to last until next harvest.

The next big job for the farm crews will be the harvesting of potatoes.

Walter C. Roberts

Gail's Calf

The boys on the farm had a surprise awaiting them yesterday morning. When they got to the cowbarn they found that a new calf had arrived. Thompson's Island Gail, the mother, was giving the calf a bath and cleaning it up when the farm boys got to the barn. The calf is certainly cute.

G. Henry Tangen

Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by
THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF EXCELLENT
CHARACTER SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.
TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

BURLEIGH M. PRATT - - - - - *Editor*

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Every organization, be it commercial, or professional, bases its success on its method and scope if the organization warrants. Our school continuously scouts for talent, especially the undeveloped and unknown talents of its boys.

We all have many God given talents which if found and developed can be of immeasurable value to ourselves, our families, our communities and indeed to the world. Here we are very fortunately equipped to help every boy find his abilities and develop them along the lines of greatest success and happiness.

The maximum is achieved by the expansion of inherent Christian character. Personality is developed by the recognition and training of the fundamental factors within the individual which lead to the recognition of real life objectives and a spirit of service.

Education has different meaning for each person who attempts to define the process and objectives. By long experience it has been found that knowledge of truths and methods learned from the previous knowledge and experience of others is essential, book knowledge. The large majority of schools and colleges continue their educational plan of instruction entirely through books.

Here at The Farm and Trades School we have long recognized the fact that book knowledge is only a fractional part of true complete education. We continue to maintain well recognized, high academic standards and here was established one of the first school libraries in the Country.

A short article can hardly enumerate the scores of educational factors we find important in boy development. Music, until quite recently considered as having no place in a school curriculum, was found to have a true value in the lives of boys here nearly a hundred years ago. Ninety years ago America's first boys'

band was formed at this island school. Today music has a place in many schools throughout the Land and annual music festivals rank first place in color, inspiration add real achievement.

Agriculture, trades, sports, all have important place in the real talent developments of our boys, as they should in the life of every boy wherever located.

We are all talent scouts and we consider it a privilege to be occupied in the most important service to mankind, the building of men by helping boys to find their hidden talents and develop them to their greatest good.

Topics in Brief

The month of July was truly a vacation month for the boys at the School. The recreational facilities were used steadily and each of the boys had many worthwhile activities with which to use his play hours. The great majority of our boys have a variety of sports and hobbies and the extended recreational periods of the summer months provide the opportunity they wish for furthering their interests.

The mosquito, which has achieved a sort of world-wide fame as man's most pernicious pest, was given a rather rough treatment early in August here when parts of the island campus were sprayed with a DDT solution. By thorough draining, and the extensive use of oil, we have fought a continuous battle against this pest throughout the years. A careful study of the newer wartime-proved pest exterminators is being made with the probability that a death blow can be dealt the mosquito, insofar as it affects our enjoyment of outdoor life.

We watch with interest the progress being made at the Logan International

Airport. The original field is being enlarged to a really tremendous area. Governor's Island, with its old fort and other landmarks, is now part of the field. From our island we can watch the work going on, and upon completion a considerable part of this "Hub of the air universe" will be easily visible.

A feature of our school has long been the sloyd department and this has been extremely popular work with all our boys. During the summer months a number of the boys have made use of their spare time by working at various projects in the sloyd room. No more worth-while activity could be imagined and the boys are happy for the opportunities offered.

Our Bandmaster, Captain Frank L. Warren, has conducted weekly rehearsals during the summer months with the result that our boys have a good start on another fine F. T. S. band. The 1947 band made an excellent record and the four appearances away from the school were all highly successful.

Our paint shop department has been busy this summer. All of the dormitories have been cleaned and painted, and some of the instructors' rooms in the main building have been redecorated. Many of the boys have helped in this work, the older boys as a rule doing their own rooms, under the watchful eye of our excellent painting instructor, Mr. Harris Anstey.

The Choir of the Ruggles Street Baptist Church held its annual outing at our School this month. This group has been visiting us each summer for a number of years. Their program included a ball game with the School team, which everyone enjoyed.

Most of the boys follow the fortunes of the Boston baseball teams and a great many have had opportunity to see some of the games while on vacation. The broadcasts of the games are listened to regularly. One of the boys, Richard McPhee, earned for himself some vacation money by submitting a question to the Baseball Quiz program.

A note of appreciation which was sent to Captain Bryan Avery of the excursion vessel "Mt. Washington", for his kindness extended to our Band upon the trip to Wolfboro, has been posted by Captain Avery in the main salon of the vessel. Our boys certainly enjoyed the all-day sail on lovely Lake Winnepesaukee and we are happy that Captain Avery considered our "Thank You" note worthy of such attention.

Thompson's Island has long been known as one of the beauty spots of this area. Visitors marvel at the beautiful lawns, lovely shade trees and the various flower beds which present a symphony in color. There are always some of our boys to whom horticulture is of great interest, and under careful guidance, they are given excellent opportunities in working at landscape gardening. The result of the boys' effort and training is everywhere visible.

The appearance of our wharf has been greatly improved since our boat crew painted the railings and replaced some of the worn planks. The "Pilgrim III", our boat, has presented a spick and span appearance throughout the summer. A beautiful boat, manned by a captain and boys as she gracefully cruises across Dorchester Bay she seems to bring a bit of Thompson's Island to the City Point shores.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, July 1857 As kept by the Superintendent

4. All put forth their best endeavors to make this as pleasant and profitable a day for our boys as possible. Five of them went with Mr. Warner to visit the Idiotic School, and a boat crew went with Mr. Daniels to witness a boat race at the Point. The remainder were allowed to fish and fly kites and balloons at home. At 12 M. we all partook of a dinner of green peas and lamb of our own raising, and after dinner, went sailing. At 5 P.M. we had a fine view of two balloons, the Old and Young America both of which rose rapidly in the most beautiful style. After witnessing the fireworks in the evening, the boys all retired well satisfied with the manner in which they had spent the day.

11. This morning the Steamer Nantasket came to our wharf and took the boys with their various officers on a visit to the city. After passing through various streets and visiting the City Hall, where we were received by, and paid our respects to, the Mayor; the Exchange where we were addressed by Mr. Sinclair; Faneuil Hall where we partook of a collation; we went to witness the panorama of the Arctic Voyages exhibited by Dr. Beals at the Mansion. From this we made a short call at Dea. Grant's house and partook of some refreshment. After cheering him heartily at 5 o'clock we took our line of march for the boat which was to convey us to our Island Home, where we arrived at dark without the least thing having occurred to mar our happiness through the day.

June 1857

17. Teachers and farm men all absent to attend the celebrations, and inauguration of the statue of the man and patriot Gen. Joseph Warren. Self remained at

home with the boys and enjoyed the day much. Allowed the boys to fish, fly kites, sail, etc.

23. Not a very pleasant day but boat came with about one hundred of the boys friends on board. Present of the Directors Dea. Grant only. The boys had a half holiday, as usual on such days. Rec'd 15 tons of coal from F. A. Benson per Sloop Gem.

My Experience in the Band

When I first came to the School in 1944 my ambition was to study a band instrument. I took trumpet lessons and I played in the band after I could play well enough. I played in the trumpet section for two years.

Last year I was urged to change to trombone as I could make more musical progress. I made the change with enthusiasm and I like it very much. I play in the 3rd trombone section with Samuel B. Whiting.

I think the band and sports are the two best activities at the School. The band is a very important part of my stay at the school. We go on different band trips, and we have lots of fun.

Richard E. McPhee

Additional Alumni Notes

Lt. and Mrs. Leander Dorey are really happy these days over the arrival of Martha Louise, 4 lb. 9 oz., on August 12.

ORRA W. ELLIS, a former Liver-side student, became a member of our Association a few years ago. Mr. Ellis lives in East Derry, New Hampshire. He is a subscriber to the BEACON and takes an active interest in everything pertaining to both the School and the Alumni Association.

V. HERBERT GORDON, '15, lives in North Adams, Mass., where he has been engaged in the construction business for the past twenty years. He served for two years during the War as Commissioner of Public Works for the City of North Adams. He is vice president of the North Adams Savings Bank, past president of the North Adams Rotary Club, Past Noble Grand of his Odd Fellows Lodge, member of the Masonic Order and of the American Legion.

A recent newspaper carried full pages showing pictures of the construction work which this graduate handles. It is apparent that he is a leader in the field.

He has four children. His son, Herbert Stebbins, was graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College in 1943 and took graduate work at Dartmouth. A daughter, Jane Elizabeth, attended Vermont Junior College and the Chandler School. She is now employed in the Department of Navy Personell in Washington, D. C. Barbara Wyman, another daughter, is a member of the graduating class of Tufts College. Eleven year old Cynthia Dow is in the sixth grade of the public schools.

Mr. Gordon lives a tremendously busy, happy and successful life and if this fact is pointed out to him he replies, "Well, I have a darned good wife."

GEORGE A. ROBIE, '45 graduated from high school in June and will commence his collegiate studies this September at the Gordon College of Theology and Missions in Boston.

DARWIN C. BAIRD, '42 is helping on our farm during his summer vacation. He will return to Mount Hermon School in September.

We are glad to hear of and from former students and thank those who help make our Alumni page interesting.

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

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G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

ERNEST W. AUSTIN '00, left the School 47 years ago. Time has not dulled his memories and he often recalls to mind his schooldays on Thompson's Island and the 99 boys who were fellow students at that time.

He began work in an architect's office in Boston in 1900. He then did architectural work in New York, Waterbury and New Haven, Conn., and in 1912 went to Columbus, Ohio. In 1924 he opened his own office, where he has been located up to the present time excepting for one year with the U.S. Government and during the war with the Curtiss-Wright Corporation. He is extremely busy. A big job which he lately completed was the remodelling of a building for an insurance firm, a project which cost half a million dollars.

He built his home in Columbus, which is an unusual dwelling in many respects and of which Mr. Austin is justly proud.

He owns a 70 acre farm located 25 miles from Columbus, but passes the credit for the success of the farm to Mrs. Austin who is a sister of Charles W. and Ernest N. Jorgensen, alumni of the school. Mrs. Austin, he maintains, is a real farmer.

He had two children. His married son was killed at a camp in Mississippi just before Pearl Harbor and left a daughter who is now seven years old. His daughter is married and has one child, a girl.

Mr. Austin would be glad to hear from any of his F. T. S. schoolmates. His home address is 242 Clinton Heights Ave., Columbus 2, Ohio.

A. BELDEN GILBERT, '16 holds a deep interest in F. T. S. although for many

years he has been located in California. He writes frequently and a portion of a recent letter is worth study and thought. He writes:

"After defeating Robert Kenney for Governor last June 4, 1946 I set my gage on the Lt. Governor campaign, picking Goodwin Knight, a Superior Court Judge, to win. I am enclosing a letter from him, of which I am very proud. My training at the School has been a guiding light in my fight to rid California of the Red flag of Bridges and his ilk.

"One must learn the penalty for standing on a principle and self respect. It is not always rewarded by the public who forget too easily.

"But at the School we never gave up in the snow battle until the final whistle, or the ball game until the last man was out. We must bear in mind that the whistle has not yet blown on the foreignisms which would replace our way of life."

DONALD S. MACPHERSON, '17, is employed by a large firm of Certified Public Accountants in Boston and is a C. P. A. He is an associate member of The American Institute of Accountants and a fellow in the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants.

He teaches a Sunday School class of forty senior high school boys and girls at the Wollaston Congregational Church. He is justly proud of his class and has very much enjoyed his Church work.

He is married, has a daughter 7 and a son 4 years of age. His home address is 150 Taylor St., Wollaston, Massachusetts.